

Remarks/Arguments:

The drawings have been objected to. Specifically, the Official Action indicates that the feature of "a dielectric layer between the backplate layer and the light-emitting section" is not shown in the drawings. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants' Figure 3 shows dielectric layer 19. Dielectric layer 19 is between backplate layer 20A, 20B and light-emitting section 15A, 15B. Thus, the claimed feature is shown in Figure 3. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10 have been objected to. These claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The rejection is based on an argument that "a dielectric layer is between the backplate layer and the light-emitting section" is not supported by the specification. As previously stated, Figure 3 shows dielectric layer 19 between backplate layer 20A, 20B and light-emitting section 15A, 15B. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howell (US 6,590,508) in view of Inubushi (US 5,901,834). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The Official Action argues that Howell discloses all of Applicants' claimed features except for a flexible element under the bottom of a pushbutton and a movable contact formed on a lower surface of a flexible member. Accordingly, Howell was combined with Inubushi. The Official Action argues that Inubushi discloses a flexible member under a pushbutton and a movable contact on the lower surface of a flexible member.

Applicants' invention as recited by claim 4, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record:

... a switch device ...

... a pushbutton ...

... a light emitting section ...

... said light-emitting section remains stationary while said pushbutton slides ...

The Official Action modified Howell by replacing Howell's pushbutton, flexible member, and movable contact with the pushbutton, flexible member, and movable contact of Inubushi. Inubushi's switch is unable to slide because it is a flexible member without any supporting structure to allow for sliding motion. Thus, even by combining Howell and Inubushi, Applicants claimed sliding pushbutton would not result. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable over the art of record.

Claim 6, while not identical to claim 4, is also patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 4.

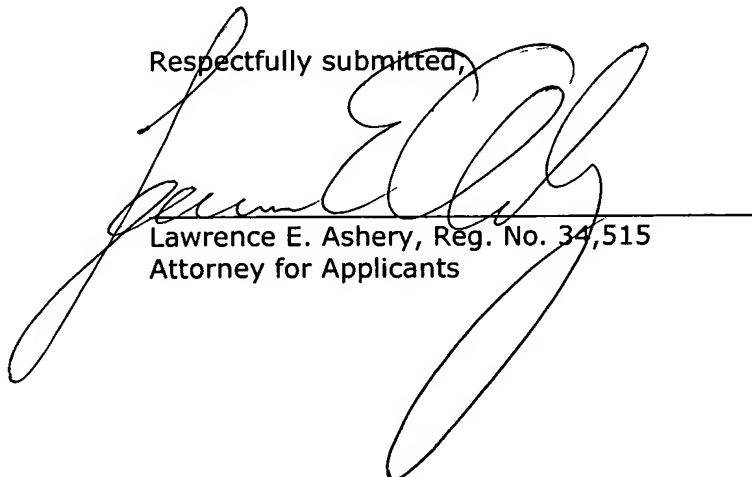
Claims 5, 7 and 10 all include the features of the respective independent claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Application No.: 10/091,903
Amendment Dated: August 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: June 1, 2005

MAT-8230US

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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LEA/ds

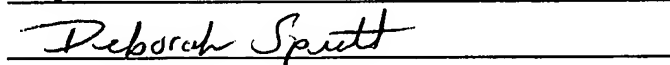
Dated: August 12, 2005

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August 12, 2005

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